

EXHIBIT 123

LITIGATION SUB-TRUST AGREEMENT

This Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement, effective as of _____, 2021 (as may be amended, supplemented, or otherwise modified in accordance with the terms hereof, this “Agreement”), by and among James P. Seery, Jr., as trustee of the Highland Claimant Trust (the “Claimant Trustee”), [____] as Delaware Trustee, and Marc S. Kirschner as trustee (the “Litigation Trustee,” and together with the Claimant Trustee and Delaware Trustee, the “Parties”) of the Litigation Sub-Trust for the benefit of the Claimant Trust as sole Litigation Sub-Trust Beneficiary.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2019, Highland Capital Management, L.P. (the “Debtor”) filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, which case was subsequently transferred to the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division (the “Bankruptcy Court”) and captioned *In re Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 19-34054-sgj11 (the “Chapter 11 Case”);

WHEREAS, on November 24, 2020, the Debtor filed the *Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P.* [Docket No. 1472] (as may be amended, supplemented, or otherwise modified from time to time, the “Plan”),¹ which was confirmed by the Bankruptcy Court on _____, 2021, pursuant to the Findings of Fact and Order Confirming Plan of Reorganization for the Debtor [Docket No. •] (the “Confirmation Order”);

WHEREAS, this Agreement, including all exhibits hereto, is the “Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement” described in the Plan and shall be executed on or before the Effective Date in order to facilitate implementation of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Plan and Confirmation Order, the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets are hereby to be transferred by the Claimant Trust to the Litigation Sub-Trust (each as defined herein) created and evidenced by this Agreement so that (i) Estate Claims can be investigated, prosecuted, settled, abandoned, resolved, and otherwise monetized as may be determined by the Litigation Trustee in accordance with the terms of the Litigation Sub-Trust Agreement; (ii) proceeds of Estate Claims can be remitted to the Claimant Trust as Claimant Trust Assets for distribution to the Claimant Trust Beneficiaries (as defined in the Claimant Trust Agreement) in accordance with the Plan and Claimant Trust Agreement; (iii) the Litigation Trustee can investigate, litigate, settle, or otherwise resolve any Filed Claims relating to the Estate Claims, including the Employee Claims; and (iv) administrative services relating to the activities of the Litigation Sub-Trust can be performed by the Litigation Trustee.

¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan.

Section 2.2

ARTICLE II.
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LITIGATION SUB-TRUST

2.1 Establishment of Sub-Trust.

(a) The Parties, pursuant to the Plan and the Confirmation Order and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, hereby establish a statutory trust under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act on behalf of the Claimant Trust as the sole Litigation Sub-Trust Beneficiary, which shall be known as the “Highland Litigation Sub-Trust,” on the terms set forth herein. The Litigation Trustee may use this name in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein as the Litigation Trustee sees fit.

(b) The Litigation Trustee shall cause to be executed and filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware the Certificate of Trust and agree to execute, acting solely in his capacity as Litigation Trustee, such certificates as may from time to time be required under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act or any other Delaware law.

2.2 Nature and Purposes of the Litigation Sub-Trust. The Litigation Sub-Trust is organized and established as a trust for the purpose of monetizing the Estate Claims and making distributions to Litigation Sub-Trust Beneficiary in a manner consistent with “liquidating trust” status under Treasury Regulation Section 301.7701-4(d). The Litigation Sub-Trust shall serve as a mechanism for investigating, prosecuting, settling, resolving, and otherwise monetizing all Estate Claims and distributing the proceeds of such Estate Claims to the Claimant Trust in a timely fashion in accordance with the Plan, the Confirmation Order, and this Agreement. The Litigation Sub-Trust and Litigation Trustee shall have and retain any and all rights, defenses, cross-claims and counter-claims held by the Debtor with respect to any Estate Claim as of the Petition Date. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Litigation Sub-Trust shall have the sole responsibility for the pursuit and settlement of the Estate Claims, and, subject to the terms of the Claimant Trust Agreement, the sole power and authority to allow or settle and compromise any Claims related to the Estate Claims, including, without limitation, Employee Claims. For the avoidance of doubt, the Litigation Sub-Trust, pursuant to section 1123(b)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code and applicable state trust law, is appointed as the successor-in-interest to, and representative of, the Debtor and its Estate for the retention, enforcement, settlement, and adjustment of all Estate Claims and Employee Claims (in accordance with the terms of the Claimant Trust Agreement).

2.3 Transfer of Assets and Rights to the Litigation Sub-Trust.

(a) On or as soon as practicable after the Effective Date, the Claimant Trust shall automatically and irrevocably transfer, assign, and deliver, and shall be deemed to have transferred, assigned, and delivered, all Estate Claims, Employee Claims, and Privileges. For purposes of the transfer of documents, the Litigation Sub-Trust is an assignee and successor to the Debtor in respect of the Estate Claims and Employee Claims and shall be treated as such in any review of confidentiality restrictions in requested documents. For the avoidance of doubt, following the Effective Date, the Litigation Trustee shall have the power to waive the Privileges being so assigned and transferred.

Section 3.2(a)
Section 3.2(b)
Section 3.2(c)(v)

3.2 Authority.

(a) In connection with the administration of the Litigation Sub-Trust, in addition to any and all of the powers enumerated elsewhere herein, the Litigation Trustee shall, in an expeditious but orderly manner, investigate, prosecute, settle, and otherwise resolve the Estate Claims. The Litigation Trustee shall have the power and authority and is authorized to perform any and all acts necessary and desirable to accomplish the purposes of this Agreement and the provisions of the Plan and the Confirmation Order relating to the Litigation Sub-Trust, within the bounds of this Agreement, the Plan, the Confirmation Order, and applicable law.

(b) The Litigation Trustee, subject to the limitations set forth in Section 3.3 of this Agreement shall have the right to prosecute, defend, compromise, adjust, arbitrate, abandon, estimate, or otherwise deal with and settle any and all Estate Claims and Employee Claims (in accordance with the terms of the Claimant Trust Agreement). To the extent that any action has been taken to prosecute, defend, compromise, adjust, arbitrate, abandon, or otherwise deal with and settle any such Estate Claims or Employee Claims prior to the Effective Date, on the Effective Date the Litigation Trustee shall be substituted for the Debtor in connection therewith in accordance with Rule 25 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, made applicable by Rule 7025 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the caption with respect to such pending action shall be changed to the following “Marc Kirschner, not individually but solely as Litigation Trustee for the Highland Litigation Sub-Trust, et al. v. [Defendant]”.

(c) Subject in all cases to any limitations contained herein, in the Confirmation Order, or in the Plan, the Litigation Trustee shall have the power and authority to:

(i) hold legal title to any and all rights in or arising from the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets, including, but not limited to, the right to collect any and all money and other property belonging to the Litigation Sub-Trust (including any proceeds of the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets);

(ii) perform the duties, exercise the powers, and asserts the rights of a trustee under sections 1123(b)(3)(B) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets, including the right to assert claims, defenses, offsets, and privileges;

(iii) subject to any approval of the Oversight Board that may be required under Section 3.3(b), protect and enforce the rights of the Litigation Sub-Trust with respect to any Litigation Sub-Trust Assets by any method deemed appropriate, including, without limitation, by judicial proceeds, or pursuant to any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, moratorium, or similar law and general principles of equity;

(iv) determine and satisfy any and all liabilities created, incurred, or assumed by the Litigation Sub-Trust;

(v) subject to any approval of the Oversight Board that may be required under Section 3.3(b), investigate, analyze, compromise, adjust, arbitrate, mediate, sue on or defend, prosecute, abandon, dismiss, exercise rights, powers and privileges with respect to or otherwise deal with and settle, in accordance with the terms set forth in this Agreement, all

Estate Claims, Employee Claims, or any other Causes of Action in favor of or against the Litigation Sub-Trust;

(vi) with respect to any Estate Claim, avoid and recover transfers of the Debtor's property as may be permitted by the Bankruptcy Code or applicable state law;

(vii) subject to applicable law, seek the examination of any Entity or Person with respect to the Estate Claims;

(viii) make all payments relating to the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets;

(ix) assess, enforce, release, or waive any privilege or defense on behalf of the Litigation Sub-Trust, the Litigation Sub-Trust Assets, or the Litigation Sub-Trust Beneficiary, if applicable;

(x) prepare, or have prepared, and file, if necessary, with the appropriate taxing authority any and all tax returns, information returns, and other required documents with respect to the Litigation Sub-Trust, and pay taxes properly payable by the Litigation Sub-Trust;

(xi) if not otherwise covered by insurance coverage obtained by the Claimant Trust, obtain reasonable insurance coverage with respect to any liabilities and obligations of the Litigation Trustee, solely in his capacity as such, in the form of fiduciary liability insurance, a directors and officers policy, an errors and omissions policy, or otherwise. The cost of any such insurance shall be a Litigation Sub-Trust Expense and paid by the Litigation Trustee from the Litigation Sub-Trust Expense Reserve;

(xii) without further order of the Bankruptcy Court, but subject to the terms of this Agreement, employ various consultants, third-party service providers, and other professionals, including counsel, tax advisors, consultants, brokers, investment bankers, valuation counselors, and financial advisors, as the Litigation Trustee deems necessary to aid him in fulfilling his obligations under this Agreement; such consultants, third-party service providers, and other professionals shall be retained pursuant to whatever fee arrangement the Litigation Trustee deems appropriate, including contingency fee arrangements and any fees and expenses incurred by such professionals engaged by the Litigation Trustee shall be Litigation Sub-Trust Expenses and paid by the Litigation Trustee from the Litigation Sub-Trust Expense Cash Reserve;

(xiii) to the extent applicable, assert, enforce, release, or waive any Privilege or defense on behalf of the Litigation Sub-Trust (including as to any Privilege that the Debtor held prior to the Effective Date), including to provide any information to insurance carriers that the Litigation Trustee deems necessary to utilize applicable insurance coverage for any Claim or Claims;

(xiv) take all steps and execute all instruments and documents necessary to effectuate the purpose of the Litigation Sub-Trust and the activities contemplated herein and in the Confirmation Order and the Plan, and take all actions necessary to comply with the

Section 3.3(b)(iii)

Confirmation Order, the Plan, and this Agreement and the obligations thereunder and hereunder; and

(xv) exercise such other powers and authority as may be vested in or assumed by the Litigation Trustee by any Final Order (the foregoing subparagraphs (i)-(xv) being collectively, the “Authorized Acts”).

(d) The Litigation Trustee has the power and authority to act as trustee of the Litigation Sub-Trust and perform the Authorized Acts through the date such Litigation Trustee resigns, is removed, or is otherwise unable to serve for any reason.

(e) Any determinations by the Liquidation Trustee, under the direction of the Oversight Board, with respect to the amount or timing of settlement or other disposition of any Estate Claims settled in accordance with the terms of this Agreement shall be conclusive and binding on the Litigation Sub-Trust Beneficiary and all other parties of interest following the entry of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction approving such settlement or other disposition to the extent required or obtained.

3.3 Limitation of Authority.

(a) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Litigation Sub-Trust and the Litigation Trustee shall not (i) be authorized to engage in any trade or business, (ii) take any actions inconsistent with the management of the Estate Claims as required or contemplated by applicable law, the Confirmation Order, the Plan, and this Agreement, or (iii) take any action in contravention of the Confirmation Order, the Plan, or this Agreement.

(b) Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, and in no way limiting the terms of the Plan, the Litigation Trustee must receive the consent by vote of a simple majority of the Oversight Board pursuant to the notice and quorum requirements set forth in Section 4.5 of the Claimant Trust Agreement, in order to:

(i) terminate or extend the term of the Litigation Sub-Trust;

(ii) commence litigation with respect to any Estate Claims and, if applicable under the terms of the Claimant Trust Agreement, the Employee Claims, including, without limitation, to (x) litigate, resolve, or settle coverage and/or the liability of any insurer under any insurance policy or legal action related thereto, or (y) pursue avoidance, recovery, or similar remedies that may be brought under chapter 5 of the Bankruptcy Code or under similar or related state or federal statutes or common law, including fraudulent transfer law;

(iii) settle, dispose of, or abandon any Estate Claims (including any counterclaims to the extent such counterclaims are set off against the proceeds of any such Estate Claim);

(iv) borrow funds as may be necessary to fund litigation or other costs of the Litigation Sub-Trust;